

MIYUKI TAKAHASHI

12



**ムサシ**  
**MUSASHI #9**

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# The story so far...

The history of mankind has been one of wars. This relentless warfare would have doomed the planet to annihilation were it not for Ultimate Blue, a secret organization also known as the "other United Nations," and its team of super agents.

Musashi Kure is one of them. Musashi goes undercover at an all-boys high school and smashes a criminal organization with Shingo Tachibana's help. Despite knowing they belong in different worlds, Shingo finds himself falling in love with Musashi. Musashi fakes her own death in an effort to end their relationship, but Shingo refuses to accept it and goes in search of her. After unexpectedly meeting one another, they resume their love despite the many hurdles.

After the two's departure, the boys of the Omega club form an auxiliary U.S. team. Their first mission is to protect the daughter of a Southeast Asian nation's president and uncover the identities of her would-be abductors. Unfortunately, Takuru's growing affection for the girl has put the team in a very awkward position.



Aileen

He is befriended by Musashi who helps him avenge his best friend. He falls in love with Musashi even though he knows she's agent #9. After searching for her, he finds her at last and confirms his love for her.



Asami Takuru

An artistic high school student who once fell in love with Musashi. After Musashi and Shingo left, he forms the Omega U.S. support team with his friends, but...



Musashi

U.S. agent #8. An elite agent with the ability to change the course of world history working for a clandestine organization also known as the "other United Nations." Her current alias is Shimohara Yui. Despite going undercover at an all-boys school, Musashi is in fact a girl.



Tachibana Shingo

U.S. agent #10. One of #9's lieutenants in Asia. Posing as the daughter of a Southeast Asian nation's president, she enrolls at the Omega's school. The Omegas are supposed to protect her, but...

The history of mankind has been one of wars. Race. Religion. Philosophy. The causes are untold.

The combatants have their own justifications, but on occasion, some create a volatile situation that threatens to destroy the world.

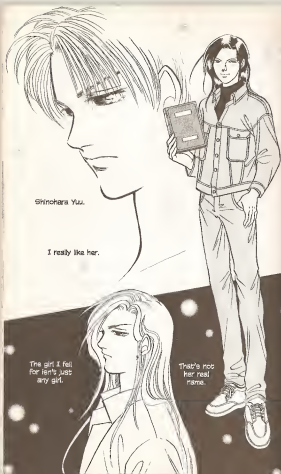


## Ultimate Blue.

An organization shrouded in complete secrecy. Also known as "the other United Nations." Nobody knows when it was created. Nobody knows where it is based.

The Blue of the Seas.  
The Blue of the Skies.  
The Blue of the Earth.

The last line of defense against chaos.



Shinohara Yui.

I really like her.

The girl I fell  
for isn't just  
any girl.

That's not  
her real  
name.

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USA



There's a huge hole in my heart.

And she walks right into it.

By "she," I mean another U.S. agent.

Her name is Aileen.  
She's #10, from  
somewhere in  
Southeast Asia.

She looks a lot like  
Yuz.

But that was  
the problem.

No wonder  
I fell for  
her.

Some guy like  
us.

Just a regular  
dude.

She's *that*  
awesome, but  
who does  
she hook up  
with?

I'd be lying if I said I  
weren't choked.

I was able to  
accept it, though.

His feelings for her  
are second to none.

My head understands.

But my heart won't  
let me off so easily.

She's agent  
#9 for  
Ultimate Blue,  
a secret  
organization  
committed  
to  
protecting  
the world.

I feel so  
insignificant  
next to her.  
I might as  
well not  
even exist.

They fought through a lot of  
adversity to be together.

I even hope it works out for them.

And I honestly mean that.

If it were only that simple, though.



SOMEWHERE IN  
YAMANASHI PREFECTURE

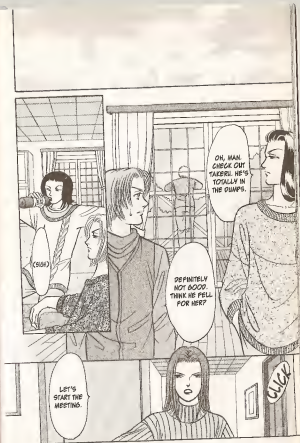
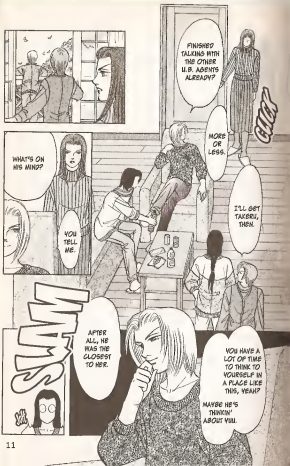


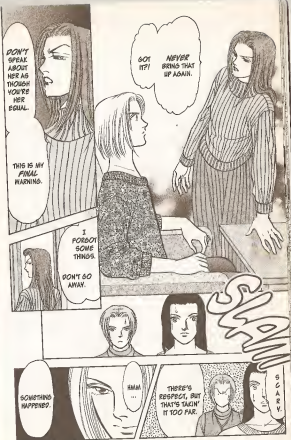
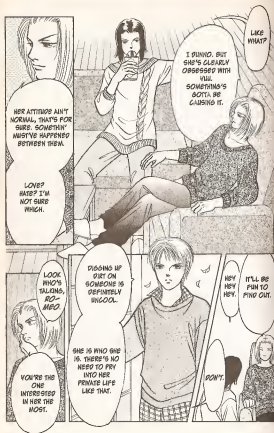
I never saw it  
coming.

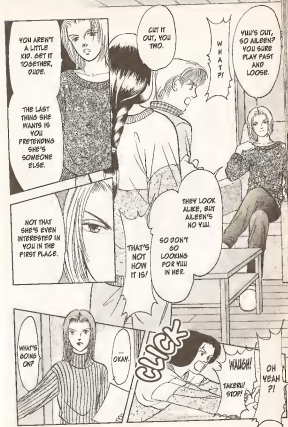
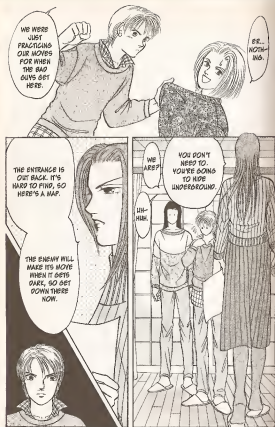
An unbelievable chain  
of events was about  
to begin.

# 9番目の ムサシ

**Mission 22:** The Asian Tempest, Part 3









SEE?

HERE'S  
THE MAP.



YES-  
SURELY.

He's just an  
ordinary guy like us.



The guy that you hooked  
up with?

But he devoted  
himself  
wholeheartedly  
to someone who  
was anything  
but ordinary.

A totally  
ordinary  
student.

He was a  
student  
where she  
went  
undercover.

His name's  
Shingo  
Tachibana.

So in that sense, he's  
not ordinary. Ordinary  
people aren't able to do  
that.

He even risked his life.

That level of  
commitment is more  
than impressive. It's  
inspiring, even.



SHE'S  
NOT OF  
U.S.

HER  
FRIENDS  
WILL BE  
HERE.  
RIGHT?

I'M  
GOING  
TO STAY  
HERE AND  
CATCH  
THEM.

WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU?



I  
SUP-  
POSE.

BUT  
YOU'LL  
BE--

FINE.



FORGET  
IT. WE'LL  
JUST GET  
IN HER  
WAY.

BUT--

WE'RE JUST  
AMATEURS. IF WE  
MESS THE MISSION  
UP, IT WOULD'VE  
ALL BEEN FOR  
NOTHING.

THE MISSION IS  
TO CATCH THE  
SHENY AND  
QUESTION  
THEM ABOUT  
THE  
GENERAL'S  
CRIMES.  
THAT'S  
WHY  
WE'RE  
HERE IN THE  
FIRST  
PLACE.

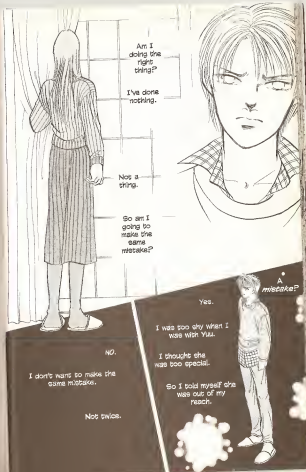


NOW  
THEN.

NOW DO  
YOU FEEL,  
LADIES?



...Yuu...



Am I  
doing the  
right  
thing?

I've done  
nothing.

Not a  
thing.

So am I  
going to  
make the  
same  
mistake?

Yes.

I was too shy when I  
was with Yuu.

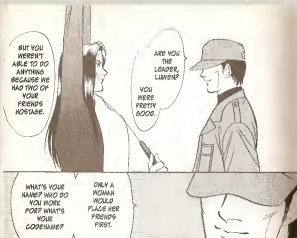
I thought she  
was too special.

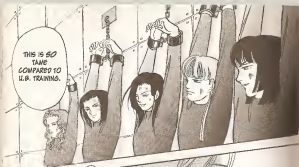
So I told myself she  
was out of my  
reach.

I don't want to make the  
same mistake.

Not twice.

A  
mistake?





THIS IS SO  
TAME  
COMPARED TO  
U.S. TRAINING.



TRUE.



EVERY-  
THING'S  
AS  
PLANNED.

YES.  
YES.

LET'S GET  
SOME  
WATER.

WE DO  
HAVE TO  
SAVE OUR  
STRENGTH,  
THOUGH.

click



YES.

NOW  
WE  
JUST  
WAIT.



TALK, IF  
YOU  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
DIE IN  
ADONY.



THERE ARE  
ALWAYS  
WAYS OF  
MAKING  
WOMEN  
TALK.

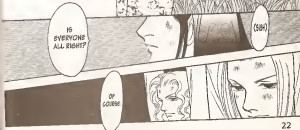
AND WHEN  
YOU'RE THIS  
GOOD  
LOOKING,  
WELL...YOU  
FIGURE IT  
OUT.

FOR BETTER  
OR WORSE,  
THE GENERAL  
LIKES YOU.  
WE'RE  
ORDERED NOT  
TO KILL YOU.

BUT HE SAID  
WE COULD  
MAKE IT HURT  
AS MUCH AS  
WE WANT.

IS  
EVERYONE  
ALL RIGHT?

(SBO)



OF  
COURSE





WHAT ARE  
YOU  
STANDING  
AROUND  
FOR?



HURRY! GET  
UNDERGROUND!  
THEY'LL BE COMING  
ANY TIME NOW.



WHERE ARE  
THE OTHER  
U.S.  
AGENTS?

I HAVEN'T SEEN  
ANY SIGN OF  
THEM.

HURRY UP!  
WE'RE  
CATCHING  
FLAK  
BECAUSE OF  
YOU.

WE  
KNOW  
THAT,  
BUT...

A  
L  
O  
N  
?

ARE  
THEY  
REALLY  
COMING  
?



NEXT  
TIME, YOU  
CAN GO  
ALL OUT.

WE'LL  
SHOW  
CORREBUS  
WHAT HELL  
REALLY IS.

THEN THEY'LL  
BE SORRY--  
FOR  
EVERYTHING.

RISTE RISTE RISTE RISTE RISTE RISTE RISTE RISTE RISTE RISTE

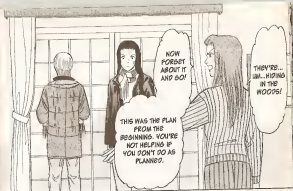


WHAT A  
HIDING  
SPOT.

JUST LIKE  
THE MAP  
SAID.



IT'S NEAR  
THE CABIN,  
BUT NO  
ONE'LL  
FIND IT.



NOW  
FORGET  
ABOUT IT  
AND GO!

THEY'RE...  
HIDING  
IN THE  
WOODS!

THIS WAS THE PLAN  
FROM THE  
BEGINNING. YOU'RE  
NOT HELPING IF  
YOU DON'T DO AS  
PLANNED.



ALL  
RIGHT,  
ALL  
RIGHT.



(SIGH)

HE'S BEING  
STUPID AS  
USUAL.  
THROW HIM  
OVER YOUR  
SHOULDER  
IF YOU  
HAVE TO!



LET'S  
GO,  
DUDE.

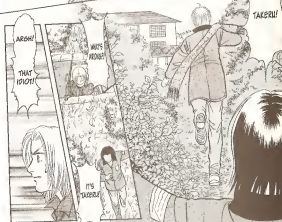


WE'RE  
ONLY  
GOING TO  
GET IN HER  
WAY.

IT'S UP TO  
ALLEN  
NOW.



AILEEN!



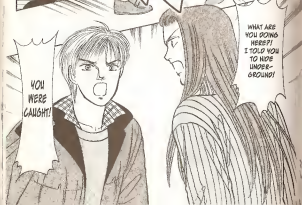
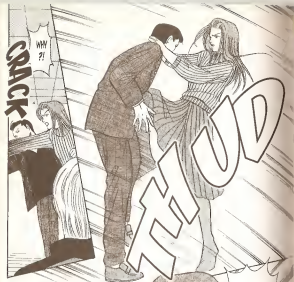
ARGH!

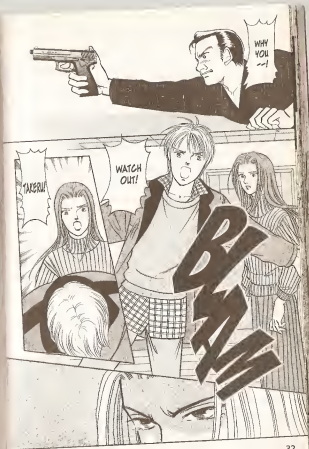
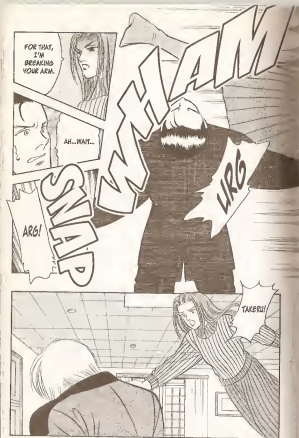
THAT IDIOT!

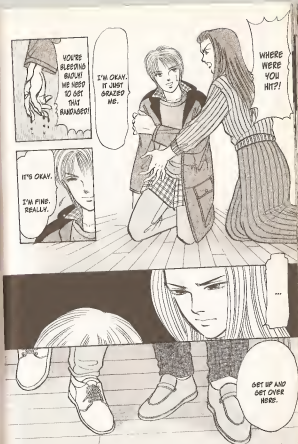
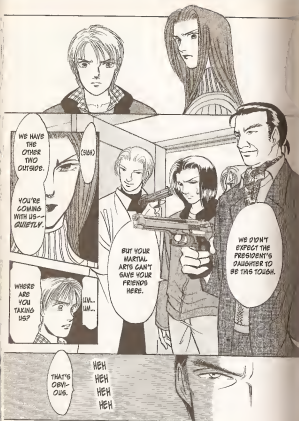
WAIT! PEOPLE!

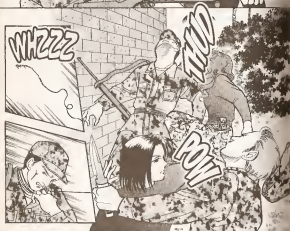
IT'S TAKERU!

TAKERU!





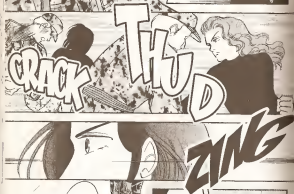




WE'RE  
TAKING  
YOU TO  
OUR  
COUNTRY.

End of Mission 22: The Asian Tempest, Part 3





SO IT'S  
TIME FOR  
US TO  
GET  
SERIOUS.

WE HAVE AN  
IMPORTANT  
GUEST  
COMING.

YOU LADIES  
JUST DON'T  
QUIT.

YOU MUST  
THINK WE'RE  
NOTHING.



LET'S  
GO.

IT'S  
TIME.







# 9番目の ムサシ

**Mission 22: The Asian Tempest, Part 4**





HEY! THAT GUY'S LISTENING!

TO THE GENERAL.

THAT IS, IF THEY HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT I'M NOT THE REAL ONE.

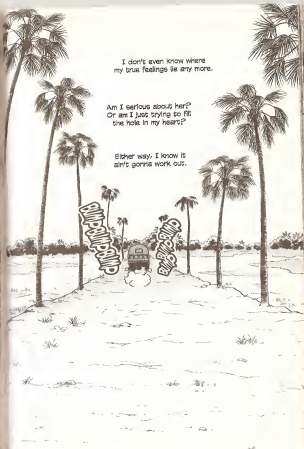


YOU'RE GOOD FOR NOTHING. ALL YOU'RE DOING IS MAKING MY MISSION THAT MUCH HARDER.



THE PLAN WAS FOR ME TO GET CAUGHT.

BUT YOU GOT IN THE WAY.



WHO DO  
YOU THINK  
I AM?

BESIDES,  
THOSE CLIMBY  
ONFS WOULD  
NEVER HAVE  
CAUGHT ME--  
UNLESS HE  
PLANNED IT  
THAT WAY.

WE'RE NOT  
STUPID  
ENOUGH TO  
OVLGGE OUR  
PLANS TO  
BANK  
DON'T NEED AMATEURS.  
THEIR HELP.



#9 WOULDNT  
HAVE MADE THE  
MISTAKE OF  
LETTING US GET  
HABBED, TOO.



CLEARLY,  
YOU'RE  
NOT #9.

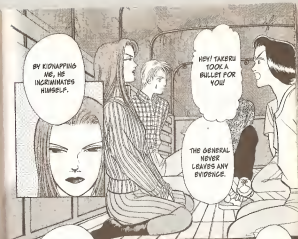
MIND OF  
U.S.

BY KIDNAPPING  
ME, HE  
INCRIMINATES  
HIMSELF.



HEY! TAKERU  
TOOK A  
BULLET FOR  
YOU!

THE GENERAL  
NEVER  
LEAVES ANY  
EVIDENCE.



NONE OF THIS  
WOULD BE  
HAPPENING TO YOU  
IF YOU HAD JUST  
LISTENED TO ME.



THAT WAS  
THE PLAN.

I WENT TO  
JAPAN SO I  
WOULD BE  
KIDNAPPED.



ARE YOU  
SAYING YOU  
COULDOVE  
FAKED HOW  
SCARED YOU  
WERE?



WHAT  
FOR?



YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
TOLD US  
FIRST.

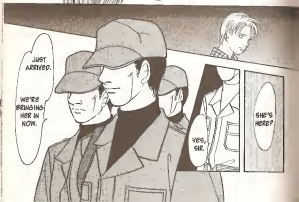


IT'S JUST  
THE SORT  
OF THING  
YOU'D  
EXPECT.

LOOK.  
IT'S  
HUGE.



HAH...



JUST  
ARRIVED.

WE'RE  
BRINGING  
HER IN  
NOW.

YES,  
SIR.

SHE'S  
HERE?



WHY DON'T  
YOU SHUT  
UP FOR A  
CHANCE?

IT'S JUST ONE  
NUMBER, BUT  
OBVIOUSLY  
THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN 9 AND  
10 IS  
ASTRONOM-  
ICAL.

EVEN IF  
SOMETHING  
WENT WRONG,  
SHE'D FIGURE  
OUT A WAY--  
WITHOUT EVEN  
BATING AN  
EYELID.

SCREEEEECH

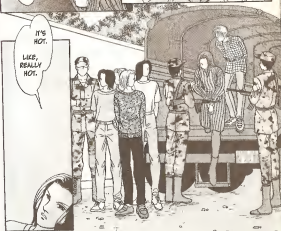


WE'RE  
HERE.



IT'S  
HOT.

LIKE,  
REALLY  
HOT.





MEETING HER  
IN PERSON  
MIGHT BE  
DANGEROUS.

YOUR  
INVOLVEMENT  
MIGHT BE  
EXPOSED.



I'LL KNOW IF THIS  
WOMAN IS THE  
REAL THING OR  
JUST A HIRED  
ASSASSIN THE  
MOMENT I SEE  
HER.

I'VE  
KNOWN HER  
SINCE SHE  
WAS A  
BABY.



THE DEAD  
TELL NO  
TALES.



BY THE WAY,  
WHERE'S LUNNET? I  
TRUST THAT  
YOU  
CAPTURED  
HER ALIVE.

YES,  
SIR.

WE HAVE HER  
IMPRISONED  
IN THE  
UNDER-  
GROUND  
CELLS.

I KILL THE  
ENTIRE  
FAMILIES OF  
THOSE WHO  
DARE TO  
OPPOSE ME.

IT'S MY  
LITTLE  
POLICY.

I HAVE NO  
INTENTIONS  
OF  
LETTING  
HER LIVE.



BUT I  
WIN THE  
WAR.

THE PRESIDENT  
CAN BE VERY  
ANNOYING.  
HE NOT ONLY  
REFUSES TO  
RESIGN--HE  
HAS THE GALL  
TO INVESTIGATE  
ME.



MAYBE WE  
CAN SEND  
HIM A FINGER  
OR TWO,  
COURTESY OF  
HIS  
DAUGHTER.  
WE'LL STEP  
DOWN  
IMMEDIATE-  
LY.



EXCEL-  
LENT.

THEN  
EVERY-  
THING  
WENT  
ACCORD-  
ING TO  
PLAN.

I'M  
AWARE  
OF ALL  
THAT.

WE  
SHOULD  
BE ON  
ALERT,  
JUST IN  
CASE.

PLUS, WE  
CAUGHT HER  
TOO EASILY.  
SOME-  
THING'S NOT  
RIGHT.

IF I MAY SAY  
SO, SIR, THE  
PRESIDENT  
WANTED A  
SHOWDOWN.  
HE'S WILLING  
TO MAKE  
SACRIFICES.

THEY SHOULD'VE  
SAVED  
CAUGHT  
OUTSIDE.

WHAT A BUNCH  
OF IDIOTS. IT'S  
DARK AND  
REALLY HARSH  
IN THESE  
CELLS. NO  
ONE'S EVER  
MADE IT OUT  
ALIVE.

**SPLAT!**  
**SPLAT!**

THEY  
THERE?

UH-  
H-H.

**FHSHH!**

EVEN THEN, THEY  
TOOK OUT HALF  
OF THE GUARDS.  
THEY ARE  
DEFINITELY NOT  
REGULAR  
COMMANDOS OR  
AGENTS.

THEY ESCAPED  
ONCE, BUT WE  
CAUGHT THEM  
EASILY. THE  
TORTURING SAPPED  
THEM OF ANY  
STRENGTH.

THEY'RE  
TOO  
DANGEROUS.

HMP  
THE  
UNDER-  
GROUND  
CELLS?

THEY STILL WON'T  
TALK. BUT THEY  
MUST BE  
WORKING FOR A  
MAJOR  
ORGANIZATION.  
THEY'RE TOO  
GOOD.

DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHO  
THEY  
ARE  
YET?

YES,  
SIR.

KILL  
THEM IF  
THEY TRY  
TO  
ESCAPE  
AGAIN.

WE CAN  
FIND OUT  
WHO THEY  
WORK FOR  
LATER.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT. THEY  
MIGHT BE  
TOO  
DANGEROUS.

I HAD  
MY EYE  
ON THAT  
GIRL.

I was totally confused. In a way, it hurt. And, in a way, I was relieved.

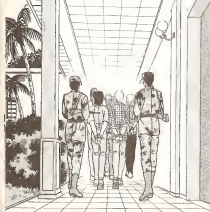
<sup>a</sup>The mission's almost over.<sup>b</sup>  
<sup>c</sup>#10 is going to leave.<sup>d</sup>

But it felt like I still had time.

If I could just do something—  
*anything*—I wouldn't have to  
suffer the sense of loss I had  
with Yui.

I kept telling myself  
that.

Over and over and over...



<sup>a</sup>The mission's  
almost  
over.<sup>b</sup>

That's what  
kept going  
through my  
head, over  
and over.



Strangely enough,  
I wasn't scared  
in the least.

What  
was  
going  
through  
my head  
then?





IT'S NOT  
GOING TO DO  
YOU ANY  
GOOD HERE.  
YOU'LL ONLY  
ENDANGER  
YOURSELF--  
AND YOUR  
FRIENDS.

YOU MAY  
KNOW SOME  
SELF-  
DEFENSE.

DON'T TRY  
ANYTHING  
STUPID.



BESIDES, I  
STILL HAVE MY  
CORPUS  
TEAM IN  
RESERVE.

They're who  
One-riner  
was talking  
about!  
They're  
here?!

HIS PERSONAL  
BODYGUARDS.

THEY'RE THE  
BEST OF THE  
BEST, SKILLED  
IN SPECIAL  
TACTICS--AND  
KILLING.

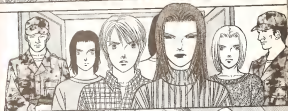
WHAT'S  
THAT?

Can 10 handle  
them all by  
herself?



I'M GLAD  
YOU  
COULD  
JOIN ME.

WEL-  
COMES.



THE NAME OF  
THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
DAUGHTER,  
"ALBEN" IS  
JUST AN ALIAS.

WHO'S  
LILINA?

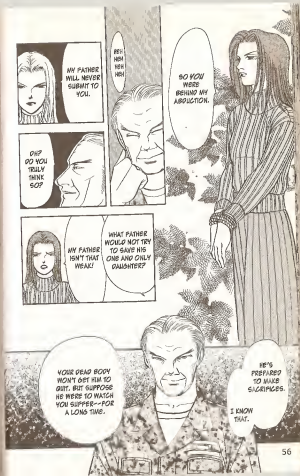
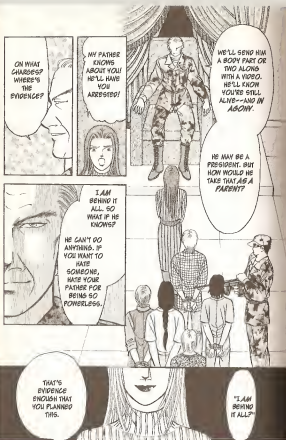
IT'S  
BEEN A  
LONG TIME,  
LILINA.

YOU'VE  
GROWN  
INTO A BEAUTI-  
FUL WOMAN.

THAT RELIG  
MUST BE  
CLUELESS.

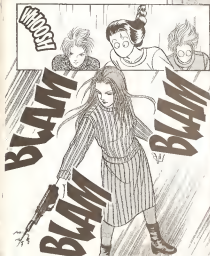
HE CAN'T TELL  
SHE AIN'T THE  
REAL ONE.



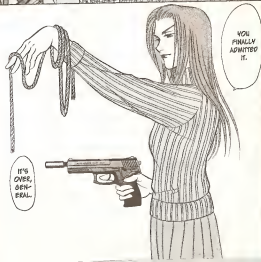
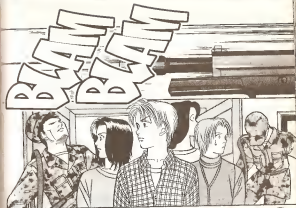


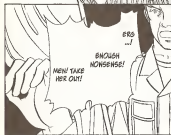
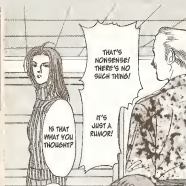


HIT THE GROUND!



WHAT?

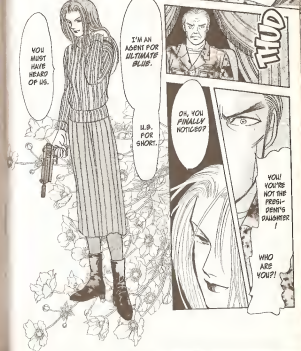




The  
"other"  
United  
Nations?  
Here?!



It can't  
be!



*It's  
Cerberus!*



KILL  
THEM  
ALL!



Aileen!



YES,  
SIR.

WITH  
PLEASURE,  
GENERAL.

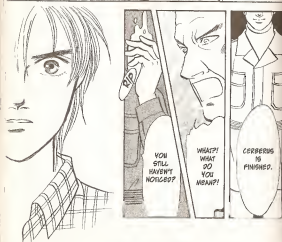


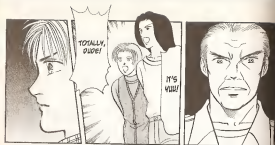
Aileen!



WHOA.  
THEY'RE NOT  
LIKE THE  
OTHERS. THEY  
SEEM  
SERIOUSLY  
HEAVY.

MAYBE  
THEY'RE...





WE'RE  
VERY  
REAL.

YOU REALLY  
DID EXIST.

NONE  
HAVE  
ESCAPED

YOUR  
MEN  
WERE SO  
INEPT.

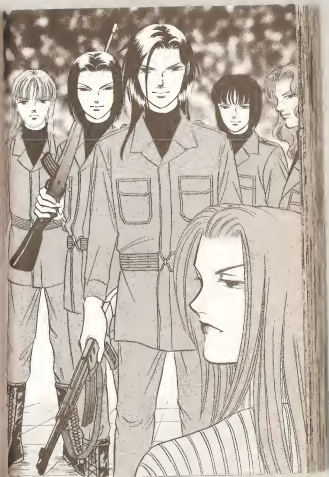
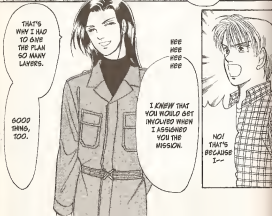
三、

YOUR DAYS OF EVIL ARE OVER.

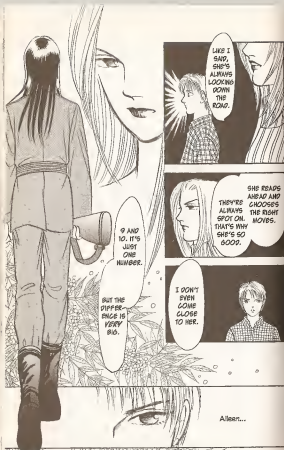
YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES.

AND WE'RE ROUNDING YOUR PEOPLE UP EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

AND  
WE'RE  
ROUNDING  
YOUR  
PEOPLE  
UP EVEN  
AS WE  
SPEAK.







9 AND  
10. IT'S  
JUST  
ONE  
NUMBER.

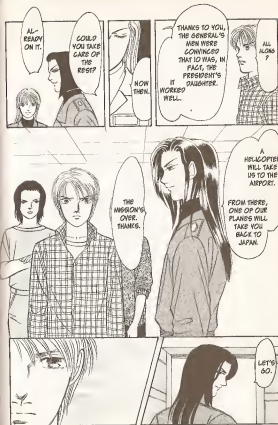
BUT THE  
DIFFER-  
ENCE IS  
VERY  
BIG.

LIKE I  
SAID,  
SHE'S  
ALWAYS  
LOOKING  
DOWN  
THE  
ROAD.

SHE READS  
AHEAD AND  
CHOOSES  
THE RIGHT  
MOVES.  
THEY'RE  
ALWAYS  
SPOT ON.  
THAT'S WHY  
SHE'S SO  
GOOD.

I DON'T  
EVEN  
COME  
CLOSE  
TO HER.

Allean...



AL-  
READY  
ON IT.

COULD  
YOU TAKE  
CARE OF  
THE REST?

NOW  
THEN.

THANKS TO YOU,  
THE GENERAL'S  
MEN WERE  
CONTINUED  
THAT IS WAS, IN  
FACT, THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
DAUGHTER.  
IT WORKED  
WELL.

ALL  
ALONG?

A  
HELICOPTER  
WILL TAKE  
US TO THE  
AIRPORT.

FROM THERE,  
ONE OF OUR  
PLANS WILL  
TAKE YOU  
BACK TO  
JAPAN.

THE  
AMBLYON'S  
OVER.  
THANKS.

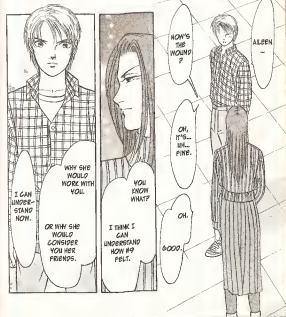
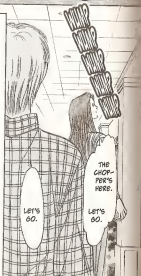
LET'S  
GO.



What was that "I'm sorry" all about? Was she saying she was sorry for being so combative? Or was it for something else all together? I had no idea.

Not that, anyway.

Besides, the mission was over.





**Mission 23: The White Fields, Part 1**

I told myself that I still liked Yui.

But suppose I had gotten to know  
Allen better.

Maybe things would've worked out  
differently.

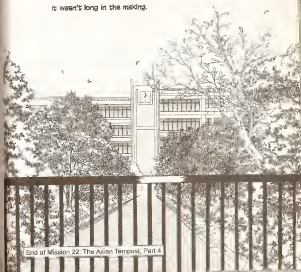
I'm not sure how I felt afterwards.  
Down? Relief? No. It was more  
like an overriding sense of guilt.

I realized it when I saw Yui and  
Allen together.

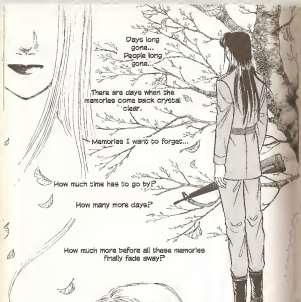
I was looking for Yui in Allen.

Maybe it was just wishful thinking on my part.  
Then something happened to completely change all that.

It wasn't long in the making.



End of Mission 22: The Asian Tempest, Part 4



Days long  
gone...  
People long  
gone...

There are days when the  
memories come back crystal  
clear.

Memories I want to forget...

How much time has to go by?

How many more days?

How much more before all these memories  
finally fade away?



Shingo Teichizawa

Japanese.  
High school dropout.  
No fixed address or  
profession.

Boyfriend of agent #9  
of Ultimate Blue, the  
world's most powerful  
organization.



L...L...

Who said anything about a broken heart? What do they know?

L...

But she was already with Shingo.

They were so close it was actually easy to accept.

I really liked Yui.



IT'S FREEZING -- BUT HE'S GOT THE WINDOWS CRANKED WIDE OPEN.

IF HE'S GONNA REMINISC, I WISH HE'D DO IT SOME PLACE ELSE.

O'WON, GIVE 'IM A BREAK.

OH MAN.



"You're substituting her for Yui." That was running through my head somewhere the whole time.

And when we met again, I realized I liked Yui--and not her.

Then I felt really guilty about substituting #10--no, *Aileen*--for Yui.

But... still...

She was like Yui in so many ways.

Same organization--just one number different.

I fell for her.

It didn't take long.

#10 of U.S.

I didn't feel like doing anything.

Yui throughout was Yui and how wild everything used to be.

It was like watching a movie.

Reality got blamed out.

I was thinking it'd never be the same, struggling, looking for a way out.

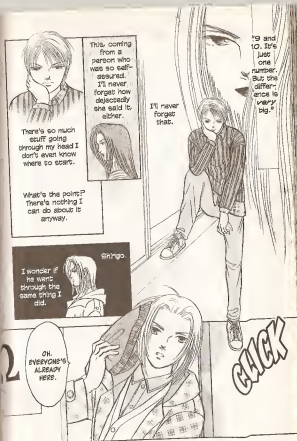
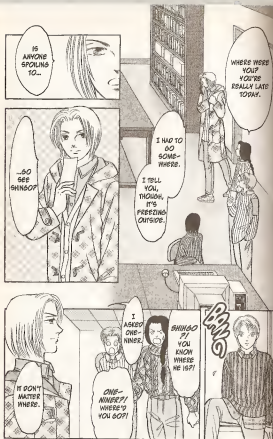
Then it happened.

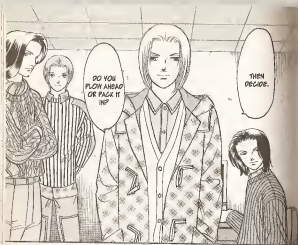
She walked in.

Still...

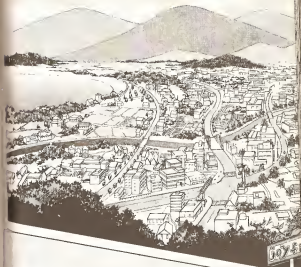
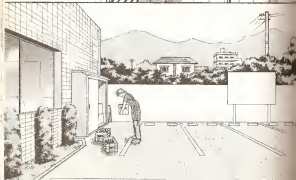
I knew it in my head.

Everything seemed so pointless.











WOW.  
THAT'S  
INSANE.

HE AIN'T ALL  
OF 20, SO  
SOMETHIN'S  
UP. YOU GET  
WHAT I'M  
SAYING?

HE SAID  
HE JUST  
MOVED  
HERE.



IT  
TAKES  
HIM  
TWO  
HOURS  
TO GET  
HERE.

DID YOU  
KNOW HE  
LIVES IN  
THE  
MOUNTAINS  
—TOTALLY  
AWAY FROM  
EVERYONE  
ELSE?

ABOUT  
SHIN-  
GO,  
THOUGH.



TO  
SHIN-  
GO?

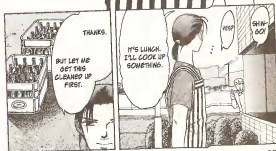
I GET  
THE  
FEELING  
HE RAN  
AWAY  
FROM  
HOME.

I'M NOT  
SURE. I  
DON'T THINK  
HE'S LIVING  
WITH HIS  
FAMILY,  
THOUGH.

IS HE  
LIVING  
BY  
HIM-  
SELF?



I FINISHED  
CLEANING  
UP  
OUTSIDE.



THANKS.

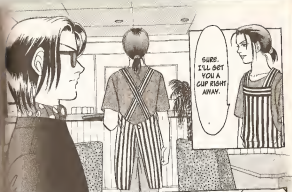
BUT LET ME  
GET THIS  
CLEANED UP  
FIRST.

IT'S LUNCH.  
I'LL COOK UP  
SOMETHING.

YES?

SHIN-  
GO?







SHE DID.

I THOUGHT #9  
ASSIGNED  
YOU TO  
PROTECT  
SHINZO  
TACHIBANA.

#10.



YOUR  
COFFEE.



#11?

DON'T YOU  
HAVE TO  
STOP  
THAT?





DOUBLY SO  
IF IT  
INVOLVES  
CIVILIANS.

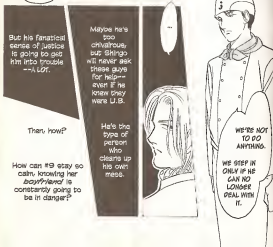
SHE TOLD  
US TO LET  
SHINGO  
DEAL WITH  
IT.

WE'RE  
SUPPOSED  
TO STAY OUT  
UNLESS IT'S  
ABSOLUTELY  
IMPERATIVE.



EVEN IF  
SHINGO'S IN  
DANGER?

(SIGH)



But his fanatical  
sense of justice  
is going to get  
him into trouble  
--A LOT.

Maybe he's  
too  
chivalrous,  
but Shingo  
will never ask  
these guys  
for help--  
even if he  
knew they  
were U.S.

Then, how?

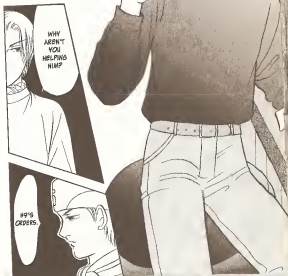
How can #9 stay so  
calm, knowing her  
boyfriend is  
constantly going to  
be in danger?

He's the  
type of  
person  
who  
cleans up  
his own  
mess.

WE'RE NOT  
TO DO  
ANYTHING.

WE STEP IN  
ONLY IF HE  
CAN NO  
LONGER  
DEAL WITH  
IT.

SHAAAAASH



WHY  
AREN'T  
YOU  
HELPING  
HIM?

#9'S  
ORDERS.

The snow fell in the mountains, as if to say spring was still far away.

Yet, in it lay only a few tracks.



The residents kept to themselves, as if hiding.



But for them, the fields of white were warmer than spring could ever be.

It was cold.



Just what?

Just what is Nine thinking?



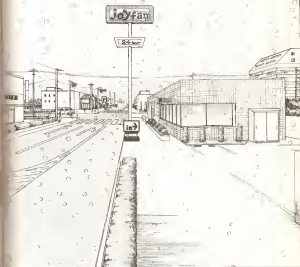
End of Mission 23: The White Fields, Part 1

# 9番目の ムサシ

**Mission 23:** The White Fields, Part 2











I want  
to know.

Why him?

What does she see in  
him? He has nothing to  
do with the organization.  
He's just a regular  
person.

Why did she fall  
in love with  
him?



One more  
thing.



If she  
loves him  
so much,  
why the  
latitude?

The boyfriend  
of a woman who  
has the power  
to alter the  
course of  
history--is of  
U.S.

Shingo  
Tachibana.



SURE. I'LL  
GET YOU A  
CUP RIGHT  
AWAY.

JUST  
COP-  
FEE.

CAN I  
TAKE  
YOUR  
ORDER?



IT'D BE  
CHOICE IF IT  
WERE A  
GIRL,  
THOUGH.



MAYBE HE,  
SHE, IS A  
PRIVATE  
EYE.



THE GUY'S  
DEFINITELY  
SCOPING  
HIM OUT.





WELCOME.



SORRY. I'M NEW  
HERE. I REALLY  
DON'T KNOW  
WHO WORKS  
HERE.



GET  
HIM!

HEY!  
WE WERE  
TOLD THE  
DIRTYBOY,  
MITSUHI,  
WORKS  
HERE!



Doesn't  
she get  
worried?

You never  
know where  
danger lies.



HERE'S  
YOUR  
COFFEE.



I AM?  
AROUND?

MITSUHI?

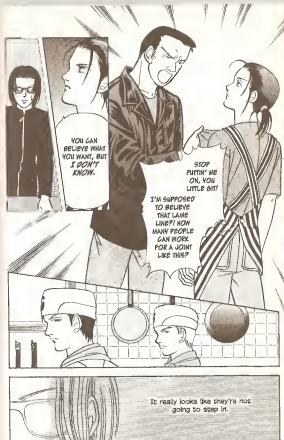
I have a  
hard time  
trying to  
understand  
#9.

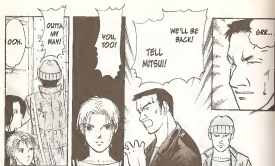
She posts our  
people to guard  
Shingo.

Then she tells  
them to stay  
out unless it's  
absolutely  
necessary.



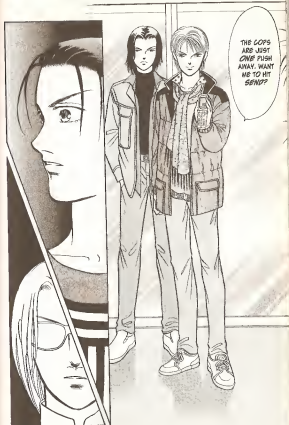
They're not  
to do  
anything until  
he specifically  
asks them for  
help.

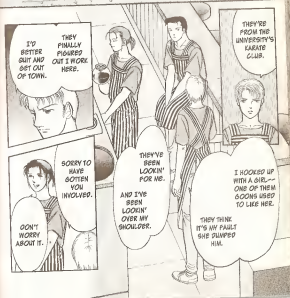
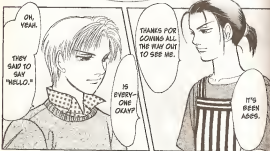
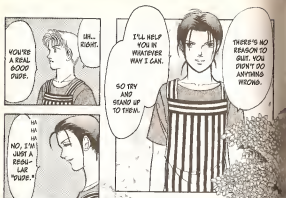


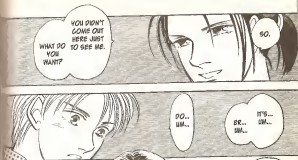
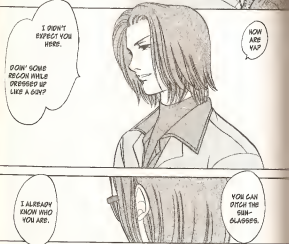


YOU'RE...

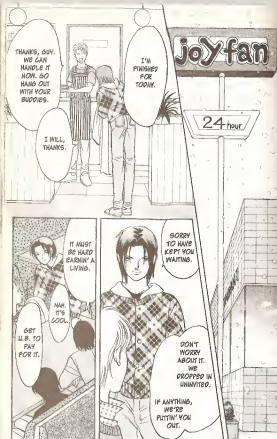
LONG  
TIME NO  
SEE,  
SHINGO.















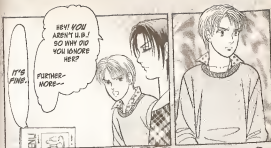
It took ages to finally hook up.

What do  
you  
mean?!

So why  
this?!

One of  
U.B.'s very  
best and  
some  
ordinary  
guy. They  
went  
through  
tons, for  
each  
other.

These guys  
ain't a  
normal  
couple.



IT'S  
BETTER  
THIS  
WAY.

IT'S THE  
WAY HE  
DO IT.







What's she thinking?

It doesn't seem like she's going to do anything either.



WE'LL USE YOU FOR A SANDPAG.



AND HAVE THEM CALL THE COMPS? NAH, WE DON'T NEED THE HASSLES.

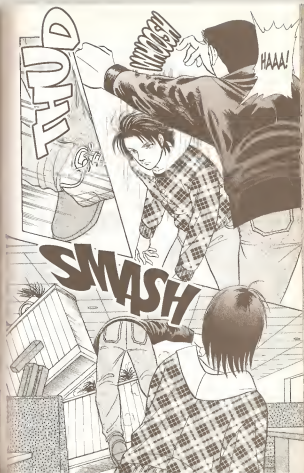


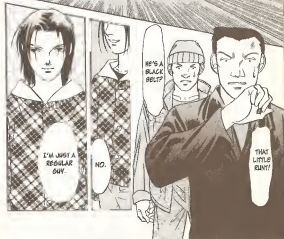
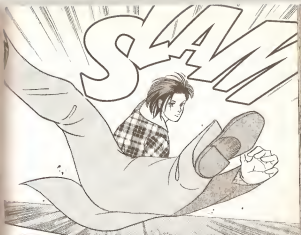
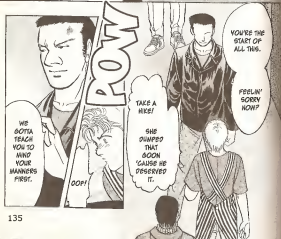
They really aren't going to do anything.



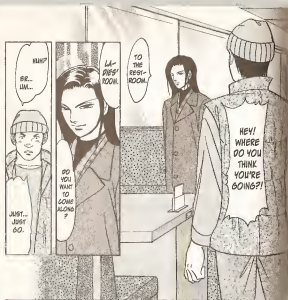
THEY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS. LET THEM WALK, PLEASE.

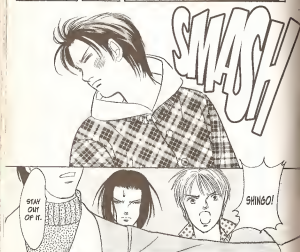
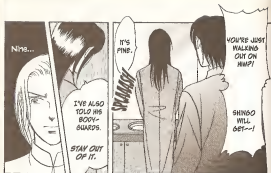












Yesterday was unlike today.  
Today will be unlike tomorrow.

More memories.  
More data.

We move forward on a  
daily basis.



Or so we would  
like to believe.

PASS WORD  
\*\*\*\*\*  
UB DATABASE ACCESSED

POSSIBILITY OF INJURY AND/OR DEATH IF THE SUBJECT  
UNDER PROTECTION, SHINGO TACHIBANA, WERE TO ACT IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH UB AGENT #9, MUSASHI.

FLASH!!



◀ 70%

in silence do the  
snowflakes fall.

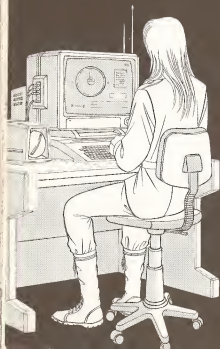


Then they melt  
and slip away.



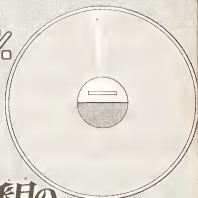
The snow  
of spring  
never  
stays for  
long.

Whatever thoughts  
they might have held  
is a mystery none  
will ever know.



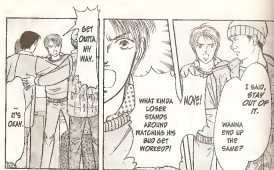
DANGER LEVEL THE MISSIONS OF UB AGENT #9,  
MUSASHI, POSE TO SHINGO TACHIBANA:

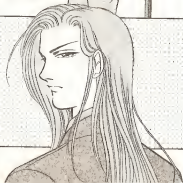
99%

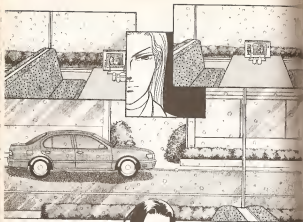


9番目の  
ムサシ

**Mission 23:** The White Fields, Part 3



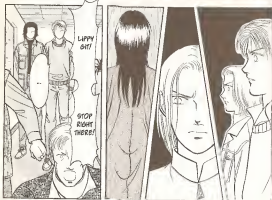
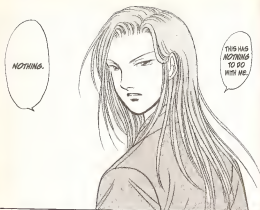




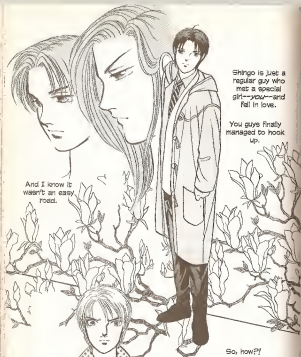
MM



CRACK







And I know it  
wasn't an easy  
road.

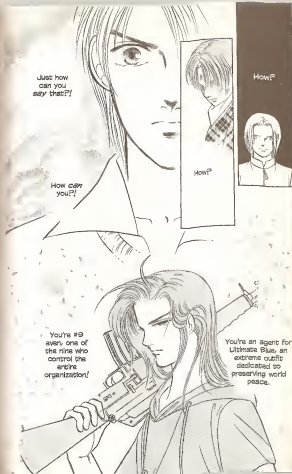
Shingo is just a  
regular guy who  
met a special  
girl--you--and  
fell in love.

You guys finally  
managed to hook  
up.

So, how?!

You two are finally together,  
so, *how?*!

How can you ignore him, like  
he doesn't even exist?!



Just how  
can you  
say that?!

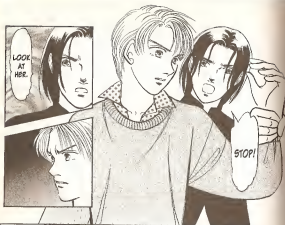
How can  
you?!

How?

How?

You're #3  
ever, one of  
the nine who  
control the  
entire  
organization!

You're an agent for  
Ultimate Blue, an  
extreme outfit  
dedicated to  
preserving world  
peace.



I gave up  
because I  
thought he  
meant  
everything  
to you!



So how can  
you stay so  
calm?!

Shingo's gettin'  
beaten to a pulp!



Was I  
wrong? Did  
he mean  
nothing to  
begin with?!

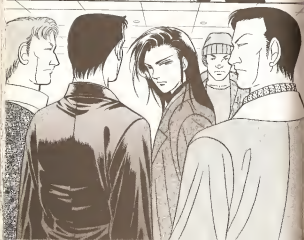
Is that what  
this is all  
about?!

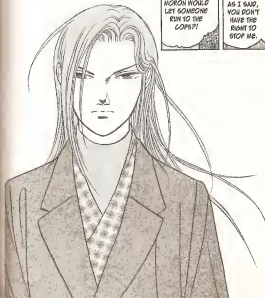
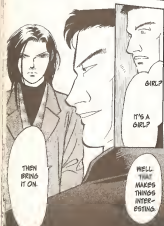
People from  
different sides of  
the track can't  
be together?



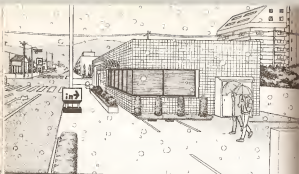
NO  
WAY!

TAKE IT!









WE DON'T  
HAVE A  
CHOICE.

THINK  
THEY'LL  
BE  
OKAY?



C'MON,  
DUDE...  
BANGS IN  
THERE.

ANYWAY,  
LET'S  
GO!



OH,  
MAN.  
THOSE  
IDIOTS.

I'LL  
CARRY  
HIM.



I SERIOUSLY  
HOPE THEY DO  
NOT CHASE  
HER OFF HIS  
TIME.

THEY'RE  
COMPLETE  
LOSERS.  
BUT I FEEL  
SORRY FOR  
THEM. THEY  
DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
THEY'RE UP  
AGAINST.





NAH, I  
THINK  
WE'RE  
HEADIN' TO  
SHINGO'S  
PLACE.  
ACTUALLY,  
SHINGO'S  
AND  
NINE'S.



WE'RE  
GOING  
DEEP  
INTO THE  
MOUNTAINS.

U.S. WAS A  
HIP-BOY  
EVEN  
HERE?



Theirs?



This  
deep in  
the  
woods?



THERE'S A  
FIGHT GOING  
ON. IT LOOKS  
LIKE IT ISN'T  
OVER YET.  
THE OTHER  
PATRONS  
HAVEN'T  
COME OUT  
YET.

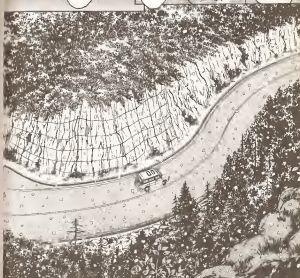
EMPLOYEES?  
WHAT ABOUT THE  
OTHERS?



DON'T  
LOSE  
THEM.

WE WANT  
THEM.

WHO CARES  
ABOUT SOME  
STUPID FIGHT?





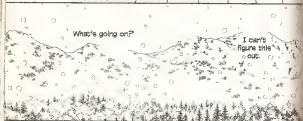
She looks worried—unlike before.



GOT HERE FIRST?

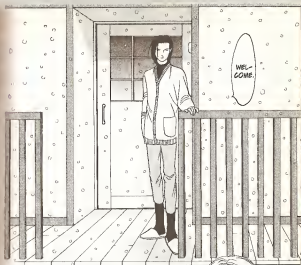
I SAID THAT IT WOULDN'T TAKE LONG.

I'LL TAKE SHINGO.



What's going on?

I can't figure this out.



WELCOME.



I TOOK CARE OF IT AND GOT HERE FIRST.

HAH? WHY? NOW?

There is a lion asleep in the hills.

In quiet slumber it  
lies unknown--its claws  
sheathed for now.

Do not rouse the lion from its sleep.

Above all...

Take care to never anger it.



End of Mission 23: The White Fields, Part 3

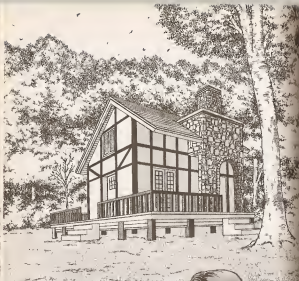




# 9番目の ムサシ

**Mission 23:** The White Fields, Part 4





There is an unlikely pair of lovers leading an unlikely life together.

Committed and true, although it may not appear that way to some.

The paradox  
leaves their  
friends  
uttering a  
single word.

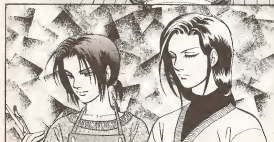
"Why?  
Why?  
Why?"

And as they do, a  
late snow falls  
upon the fields.



LUNCH'S  
READY.  
LET'S EAT.

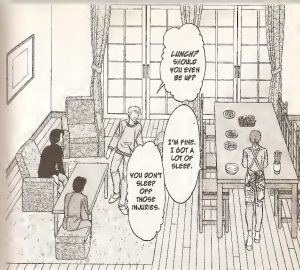




HERE,  
I'LL  
TAKE  
THAT.

WHY  
DON'T  
YOU  
GET  
THE  
TABLE  
INSTEAD?

SURE.



LUNCH?  
SHOULD  
YOU  
EVEN  
BE  
UP?

I'M  
FINE.  
I  
GOT  
A  
LOT  
OF  
SLEEP.

YOU  
DON'T  
SLEEP?  
OOF  
THOSE  
INJURIES.

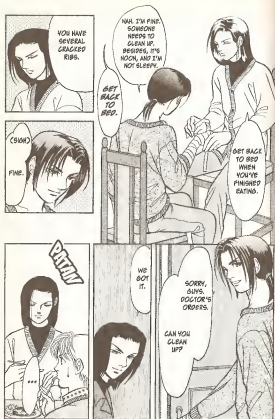


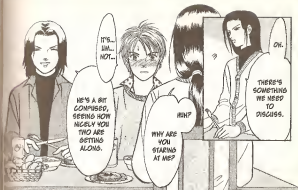
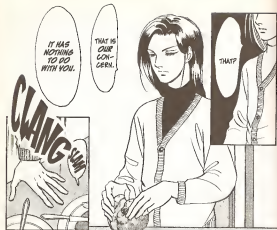
SEE?  
I  
TOLD  
YOU!

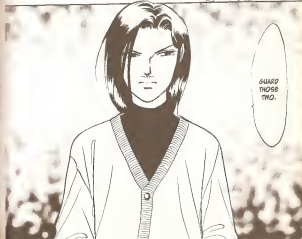
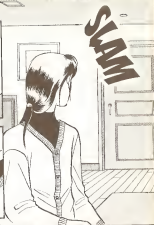
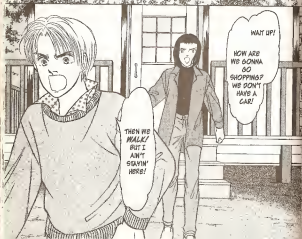


NAH, I'M  
REALLY  
ALL  
RIGHT.

LET'S  
EAT  
BEFORE  
IT  
GETS  
COLD.







WHAT DOES SHINGO MEAN TO HER?

WHAT IS IT WITH U.S. AGENTS AND LOVE?

DON'T THEY GET EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED?

IT ONLY TURNED OUT THAT WAY! IT'S ONLY BECAUSE THEY STARTED HAGGLING HERE!

OTHERWISE, SHE'D HAVE JUST SPLIT ON HIM.

SO NOW CAN SHE JUST WATCH SHINGO GET PUNISHED WITHOUT SO MUCH AS BATTLING AN EYEBROW??

SHE OUSTED ALL OF THEM, THOUGH.

BUT NOW I'M THINKIN' THAT IT WAS ALL JUST A WASTE OF TIME ON MY PART.

I ACCEPTED IT WOULDN'T WORK OUT WITH ME AND ALL THAT.

I MEAN, WHY?

POK

OH, MAN.

YEAH? WHAT'S THE CONTEXT FOR WATCHING THE PERSON YOU LOVE GET BEATEN TO A PULP??

IT COULDN'T BE HELPED! YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT IT IN CONTEXT.

WE'RE NOTIN' BUT OUT-SIDERS! WE DON'T BELONG!

I KNOW SHE AIN'T LIKE US! AND BEING IN, SHE'S TOTALLY IMPORTANT.

AND I KNOW HOW DANGEROUS IT'D BE FOR EVERYONE IF HER COVER WERE BLOWN!

BUT THEY ARE, LIKE, TOTALLY CLOSE!

AND THAT WAS ONLY AFTER A LOT WENT DOWN!

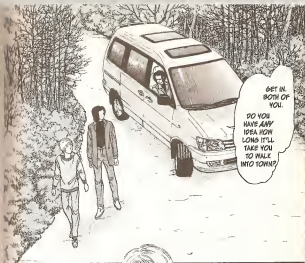
I'm shinkin'  
about  
you--a  
lot.

Will you?

Well, U.S.  
agents #10?

But maybe  
that's  
somethin'  
you could do  
without.

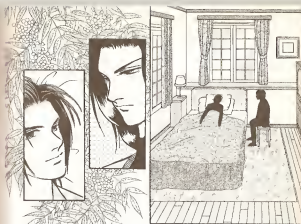
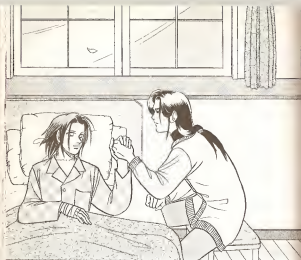
Will you sacri-fice  
even love for  
your missions,  
too?

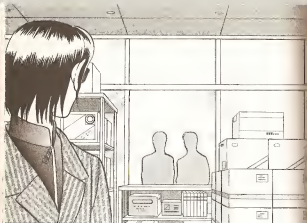


Alien?



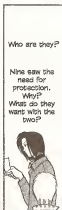






REV, WE'RE  
FINISHED!

LET'S GO,  
ALEEN.



Who are they?

Nine saw the  
need for  
protection.  
Why?  
What do they  
want with the  
two?

Are they who  
Nine was talking  
about?



They've been  
watching the  
two the whole  
time.



IT'S  
OBVIOUS.

IT'S TILL  
WE GET  
AN  
ANSWER.



SO, HOW LONG  
ARE WE  
GONNA STAY  
HERE?



OH YEAH, WE  
ZIPPED OUT  
HERE WITH  
NOTHING.

WE'LL  
PROBABLY  
NEED  
UNDER-  
WEAR.



I  
DUN-  
NO, YET.

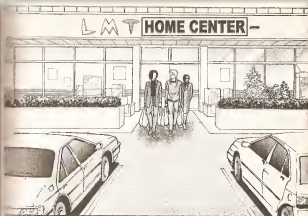
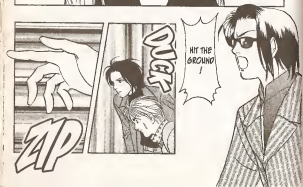
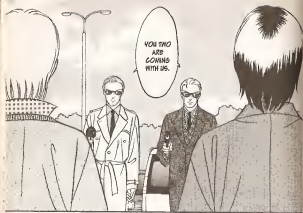


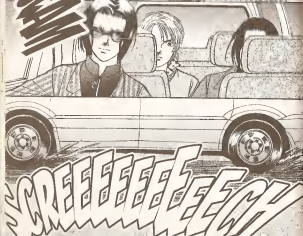
ER ...

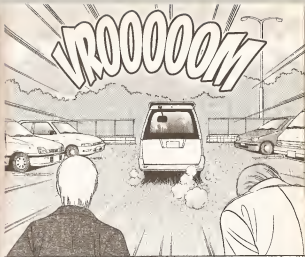
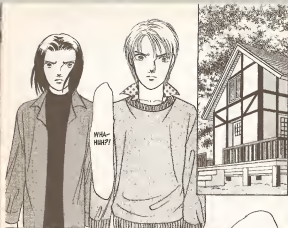


ANSWER  
TO  
WHAT?









I DON'T KNOW.  
THEY WEREN'T  
SUPPOSED TO  
HAVE A  
BODYGUARD  
LIKE THAT.

WHO  
WAS  
THAT?

SER.

WE'LL HAVE  
TO CHANGE  
TACTICS.

IN ANY CASE,  
WE HAVE TO  
GET THOSE  
TWO, SO WE  
CAN FIND OUT  
WHAT THEY  
KNOW.

MAYBE HE'S  
THE ONE THAT  
TOOK OUT  
"YOU KNOW  
WHO."

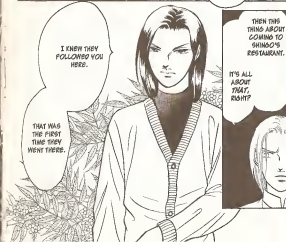


THEY  
PROBABLY  
DREW A  
CONNECTION.

THE MEN WHO  
WERE  
ORIGINALLY  
LOOKING FOR  
WHO LIKELY  
WENT BACK TO  
YOUR SCHOOL.



EVEN THE  
SMALLEST  
BIT OF  
INFORMA-  
TION  
WILL DO.  
THEY'RE  
QUITE WILLING  
TO FORCE IT  
OUT OF YOU.

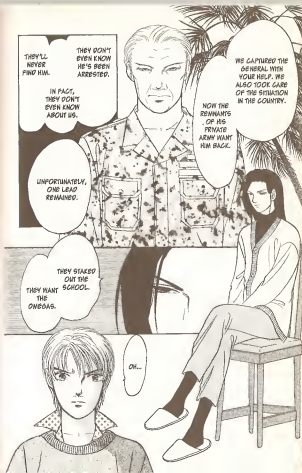


I KNEW THEY  
FOLLOWED YOU  
HERE.

THAT WAS  
THE FIRST  
TIME THEY  
WENT THERE.

THEN THIS  
THING ABOUT  
COMING TO  
SHIMSOO'S  
RESTAURANT.

IT'S ALL  
ABOUT  
THAT,  
RIGHT?



THEY'LL  
NEVER  
FIND HIM.

THEY DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
HE'S BEEN  
ARRESTED.

IN FACT,  
THEY DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
ABOUT US.

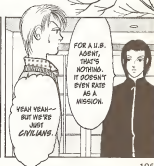
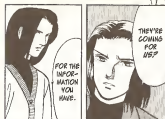
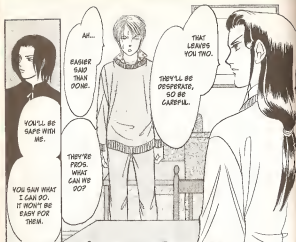
UNFORTUNATELY,  
ONE LEAD  
REMAINED.

NOW THE  
REMNANTS  
OF HIS  
PRIVATE  
ARMY WANT  
HIM BACK.

WE CAPTURED THE  
GENERAL WITH  
YOUR HELP. WE  
ALSO TOOK CARE  
OF THE SITUATION  
IN THE COUNTRY.

THEY STAKED  
OUT THE  
SCHOOL.  
THEY WANT  
THE  
OWGAS.

OH...



GET THE  
CAR  
READY.



DONE.



The sleeping  
lon ever so  
slowly  
awakened.



It was  
terrifying  
in a way.

It was a sight  
he won't  
soon forget.

YOU LET  
HIM GO IN  
THAT CONDI-  
TION?!



HE  
WENT TO  
WORK.

HE SAID  
THEY'RE UNDER-  
STAPPED.



WHERE'S  
SHINZO?!



YOU CAN'T  
STOP HIM.

YOU KNOW  
HOW HE IS.



NOT

YES?



BUT  
—





The  
message  
was  
clear.

There are  
some  
people  
who you  
should  
never  
*ever*  
cross.

We Found  
that out  
soot  
enough.

End of Mission 23: The White Fields, Part 4

End of Musashi #9, Volume 12



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EVERYONE

Titles with this rating are appropriate for all age readers. They contain no offensive material. They may contain mild violence and/or some comic mischief.



## TEEN

Titles with this rating are appropriate for a teen audience and older. They may contain some violent content, language, and/or suggestive themes.



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## MATURE

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